

**Table 139. Department of Veterans Affairs health care expenditures and use, and persons treated according to selected characteristics: United States, selected fiscal years 1970–2002**

[Data are compiled from patient records and enrollment information by the Department of Veterans Affairs]

	1970	1980	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Health care expenditures</b>									
Amount in millions									
All expenditures <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	\$1,689	\$ 5,981	\$11,500	\$16,126	\$17,441	\$17,876	\$19,327	\$21,316	\$23,003
Percent distribution									
All services . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inpatient hospital . . . . .	71.3	64.3	57.5	49.0	38.3	38.8	37.3	34.7	33.6
Outpatient care . . . . .	14.0	19.1	25.3	30.2	41.8	44.0	45.7	48.0	48.8
Nursing home care . . . . .	5.5	7.1	9.5	10.0	10.2	8.5	8.2	8.1	8.0
All other <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	9.1	9.6	7.7	10.8	9.9	8.7	8.8	9.2	9.6
<b>Health care use</b>									
Number in thousands									
Inpatient hospital stays <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	787	1,248	1,029	879	617	611	579	584	590
Outpatient visits . . . . .	7,312	17,971	22,602	27,527	34,972	36,928	38,370	42,901	46,058
Nursing home stays <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	47	57	75	79	98	92	91	93	87
<b>Inpatients<sup>5</sup></b>									
Total . . . . .	---	---	598	527	380	447	417	426	436
Percent distribution									
Total . . . . .	---	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Veterans with service-connected disability . . . . .	---	---	38.9	39.3	38.2	33.8	34.4	34.6	35.2
Veterans without service-connected disability . . . . .	---	---	60.3	59.9	60.8	65.3	64.7	64.5	63.9
Low income . . . . .	---	---	54.8	56.2	55.4	44.8	41.7	41.4	40.9
Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits or who are catastrophically disabled <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	12.8	16.0	15.7	13.6
Veterans receiving medical care subject to copayments <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	---	---	2.8	2.8	3.8	4.7	5.2	6.0	7.7
Other and unknown <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	---	---	2.7	0.9	1.6	3.0	1.8	1.4	1.7
Nonveterans . . . . .	---	---	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>Outpatients<sup>5</sup></b>									
Number in thousands									
Total . . . . .	---	---	2,564	2,790	3,235	3,400	3,657	4,072	4,456
Percent distribution									
Total . . . . .	---	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Veterans with service-connected disability . . . . .	---	---	38.3	37.5	38.7	30.5	30.7	30.0	29.5
Veterans without service-connected disability . . . . .	---	---	49.8	50.5	52.9	60.6	60.8	62.5	63.9
Low income . . . . .	---	---	41.1	42.2	41.3	38.8	37.6	36.6	34.1
Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits or who are catastrophically disabled <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	---	---	---	---	---	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.3
Veterans receiving medical care subject to copayments <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	---	---	3.6	4.2	8.4	11.7	15.4	19.9	23.6
Other and unknown <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	---	---	5.1	4.1	3.2	6.9	4.0	2.3	2.9
Nonveterans . . . . .	---	---	11.8	12.0	10.4	8.9	8.5	7.5	6.6

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Health care expenditures exclude construction, medical administration, and miscellaneous operating expenses at Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters.

<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous benefits and services, contract hospitals, education and training, subsidies to State veterans hospitals, nursing homes and domiciliaries, and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

<sup>3</sup>One-day dialysis patients were included in 1980. Interfacility transfers were included beginning in 1990.

<sup>4</sup>Includes Department of Veterans Affairs nursing home and domiciliary stays, and community nursing home care stays.

<sup>5</sup>Individuals. The inpatient and outpatient totals are not additive since almost all inpatients are also treated as outpatients.

<sup>6</sup>Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits; veterans who have been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be catastrophically disabled.

<sup>7</sup>Financial means-tested veterans who receive medical care subject to copayments according to income level.

<sup>8</sup>Prisoner of war, exposed to Agent Orange, and so forth. Prior to fiscal year 1994, veterans who reported exposure to Agent Orange were classified as exempt. Beginning in fiscal year 1994 those veterans reporting Agent Orange exposure but not treated for it were means tested and placed in the low income or other group depending on income.

NOTES: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding. In 1970 and 1980, the fiscal year ended June 30; for years 1990 and later the fiscal year ended September 30. The veteran population was estimated at 25.6 million in 2002 with 38 percent age 65 or over, compared with 11 percent in 1980. Nineteen percent had served during World War II, 15 percent during the Korean conflict, 32 percent during the Vietnam era, 14 percent during the Persian Gulf War, and 24 percent during peacetime. These percentages add to more than 100 due to veterans serving during more than one war. Beginning in fiscal year 1995 categories for health care expenditures and health care use were revised. In fiscal year 1999 a new priority system for reporting data was introduced and starting in 1999, data reflect the new categories. 1999 data have been revised and differ from the previous edition of *Health, United States*. Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCE: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Policy and Planning and Preparedness, Policy Analysis Service, National Patient Care Database and National Enrollment Database, unpublished data.